

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C.,

August 15, 1899

John Holler, Esq.,

31 32 Broad Street,

New York City, N.Y.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of August 14th relative to seven half dollars which were mutilated by the Assistant Treasurer at New York and the authorities at the Philadelphia Mint, I have to reply as follows:

The coins are all counterfeit, three of them have been assayed by the Assayer of this Bureau who reports their fineness as follows:

899.1

899.1

904.3

The first two are within the legal limit of tolerance but the third as you will notice is 4.3 above the standard, and consequently outside the limit of tolerance which is .008. The lettering on the coins is all more or less bad. I would call your attention especially to the stars on the obverse, also to the flat appearance of the nose on the figure, which clearly marks it as counterfeit. The obverse of all coins are struck from the same dies ~~marked~~, while two reverse dies were used in striking the coin five being struck with one and two with the other.

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is clearly proven by examining the position of the stars on reverse. In five of the coins the star touches the last in States, while in the other two it is some distance from it. lettering in ~~e~~ pluribus ~~unum~~ is particularly bad, especially last syllable in pluribus, and the final "m" in ~~unum~~. I am sorry that under the regulations of the Department I am unable to return these coins. They have been referred to the Chief of the Secret Service, as directed by circular of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully yours,

Grover Roberts

Director of the Mint.

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Treasury Department,
Bureau of the Mint,
Washington, D.C.,

August 15, 1899.

John Holler, Esq.,
31 32 Broad Street,
New York City, N.Y.

Sir:

Referring to your letter of August 14th relative to seven half dollars which were mutilated by the Assistant Treasurer at New York and the authorities at the Philadelphia Mint, I have to reply as follows:

The coins are all counterfeit, three of them have been assayed by the Assayer of this Bureau who reports their fineness as follows: 899.1; 893.1; and 904.3.

The first two are within the legal limit of tolerance but the third as you will notice is 004.3 above the standard, and consequently outside the limit of tolerance which is .003. The lettering on the coins is all more or less bad. I would call your attention especially to the stars on the obverse, also to the flat appearance of the nose on the figure, which clearly marks it as counterfeit. The obverse of all coins are struck from the same dies, while two reverse dies were used in striking the coins, five being struck with one and two with the other. This is clearly proven by examining the position of the stars on the reverse. In five of the coins the star touches the last letter in States, while in the other two it is some distance from it. The lettering in e pluribus unum is particularly bad, especially the last syllable in pluribus, and the final "m" in unum.

I am sorry that under the regulations of the Department I am unable to return these coins. They have been referred to the Chief of the Secret Service, as directed by circular of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Respectfully yours,
[Signature] George E. Roberts,
Director of the Mint.